GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2038
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2008
EXCESS RELEASE OF WATER FROM RANGANADI DAM
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry was made by the Government on the devastation caused by sudden release of excess water from the Ranganadi Dam of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) during the month of June, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason therefor;

(d) whether any downstream impact assessment was made to justify the diversion of water from Ranganadi to Dikrong river before commissioning of the Ranganadi Dam; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) : The Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project 405 MW (3x135 MW) developed by NEEPCO on the River Ranganadi in the State of Arunachal Pradesh is a run-of-river scheme with a very small pondage of 5.7 cumec capacity. A maximum discharge of 160 Cumec of water is utilized for generation of power.

Due to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of the river Ranganadi on 13th June, 2008 the inflow of water in the river increased to approximately 2120 Cumec at 5.10 am. The huge inflow (i.e. flash flood) could not be stored in the small reservoir of Ranganadi (5.7 Cumec Capacity), and therefore, had to be passed downstream through the spillway meant for this purpose. The flood which had occurred in the main river would have even been more severe if the project was closed and all the water was allowed to pass through in the main river.

Water from the project after generation is released into the Dikrong river and excess water is allowed to pass through in the main Ranganadi river.

(d) & (e) : Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project which was commissioned in January, 2002 has inter basin transfer of water from Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project to Dikrong River basin. The maximum discharge of 160 cumec is diverted from Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project basin to the Dikrong river.

With a view to ascertain the additional impact of water, NEEPCO had entrusted the work of conducting the mathematical model studies of Dikrong River Basin downstream of the Power House to Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune. Based on the data supplied by the Flood Control Department, Government of Assam, CWPRS carried out the mathematical model study and submitted the report in May, 1994. According to the flood routing carried out by CWPRS, the rise in water level of Dikrong River in the Assam portion varies from 7cm to 12cm between Banderduwa and Sissapathar due to the maximum discharge of 160 cumec from Hoz Power Station (RHEP, Stage-I).